

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE FOURTH SARL WEDNESDAY 80 M CLUB SPRINT ON 15th JULY

FIRST WORKED ALL ZS 2000 ISSUED

and

COMMEMORATIVE SSTV TRANSMISSIONS ON SATURDAY 18 JULY 2020

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start the bulletin this morning with news of two silent key.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Carlos Sardinha, ZS6BFF went silent on Monday 23th March 2020. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Paul Ras, ZS6PR went silent in the early hours of Friday 10th July 2020. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Cecile, ZS6CJR, daughter Sanmarie, son Paul, family and friends.

PAUSE

THE FOURTH SARL WEDNESDAY 80 M CLUB SPRINT ON 15 JULY

The fourth leg of the 80 m Club Sprint is on the air from 17:00 to 18:00 UTC on Wednesday 15th July with CW and phone activity. The aim is to work as many grid squares as possible during the hour long event. The exchange is a RS or RST report and your 4 figure grid square. Submit your MS Excel log by 23:59 on Sunday 19th July to zs4bfm@mweb.co.za. The rules are on page 64 of the 2020 Blue Book.

FIRST WORKED ALL ZS 2000 ISSUED

For the past 13 years, the Worked All ZS awards programme has been dominated by one individual. Jan Botha, ZS4JAN was the second applicant for WAZS-500 in 2007. Since then, he has been the first to reach every level from 600 to 1800, a level he reached last year. SARL Awards Manager Tjerk Lammers, ZS1J has announced that Jan has recently applied for WAZS-2000. He submitted proof of contacts with 2 000 different South African call signs. This total represents almost half of all licences issued in the country!

Apart from the WAZS-2000 on mixed modes, Jan has also applied for WAZS-1900 on Phone. In both cases, ZS4DZ is the runner-up with 1 100 and 1 000 callsigns, respectively. Jan has also applied for WAZS-200 on Digital modes. No-one else has thus far reached the 100 level. Jan's application also included WAZS-1000 on 3,5 MHz and WAZS-1800 on 7 MHz. On each of these bands, Jan's score is more than double the score of the runner-up.

When the awards programme was expanded twenty years ago to recognise achievements above the entry level of 100, trophies were offered to the first three operators to reach 500. The level was chosen to be a barely-achievable challenge. No-one at the time envisaged that anyone would reach the lofty heights of 2 000. It would be interesting to see if and when Jan will start to slow down!

THE 2020 IARU REGION 1 GENERAL CONFERENCE

After consultation with Member Societies scheduled to attend the IARU Region 1 Conference, the Region 1 Executive Committee has decided to split the Conference into two sessions, the first part to be held on the scheduled dates of 11th to 15th October by virtual means and the second part to be held in-person in 2021, principally to consider the future direction for amateur radio, IARU and its Member Societies, in a workshop style forum.

The first part of the Conference held virtually between 11th and 15th October 2020 will deal with Committee 3 – Administration; Committee 4 – the Permanent HF Committee; Committee 5 – the Permanent VHF/UHF Committee and Committee 7 - the EMC Committee. Committee 2 - Finances will be limited to confirming credentials and to setting an interim budget for 2021 only.

The second part of the Conference will be held in 2021 and will be a C3 event dealing mainly with the Future of Amateur Radio workshop; C2 will look at the setting of the 2021 to 23 budget, selecting the venue of the 2023 General Conference and the election of the new EC.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

COMMEMORATIVE SSTV TRANSMISSIONS ON 18 JULY 2020

On Saturday 18th July 2020, the Secunda Amateur Radio Club - ZS6SRC will commemorate the SARL's 95 birthday. Starting at 02:00 UTC on Saturday 18th until 02:00 UTC on Sunday 19th July 2020, the club using the ZS95SARL call sign will be transmitting a series of images in SSTV B/W8 mode via the LEO FM satellites that pass Secunda at more than 10 degrees elevation during the period. The following satellites will be used: SO-50, AO-91, AO-92 and PO-101.

Please setup your receivers to share in this activity. All received images can be e-mailed to secradio@jenny.co.za. We will upload them to our website www.secradio.org.za.

Every participant who e-mails their images will receive a certificate, and there are special certificates for the youth members who participate. Let us have some fun!

The SARL is playing a huge role in keeping our hobby alive in these very uncertain times.

TWO CONTESTS NEXT WEEKEND

The Winter QRP Contest is on the air from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 18th July 2020 with CW and phone activity using 5 watts (PEP) output or less. The first hour is limited to the 40 m band only, the remaining two hours the contesters are free to use any HF (non-WARC) band as they see fit. The exchange is a RS or RST report, and your 6 figure grid square. Submit your log by Monday 27th July to contest@sarl.org.za

The ZS2 Sprint will run from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Sunday 19th July 2020 with CW and phone activity on 40 metres. The exchange is a RS or RST report, and your provincial or country abbreviation. QSOs with ZS2PE, ZS2BRC and ZS1820S count 5 points. Submit your log by Monday 27th July to contest@peham.co.za. Read the rules in the 2020 Blue Book before the start of each contest.

CONTEST RESULTS

The outstanding information has been received for the logs submitted for the third leg of the SARL 95 40 m Club Sprint as published in SARL News on 5th July. The total for the West Rand ARC changes from 1 122 points from 26 logs to 1 234 points from 29 logs and the Sandton ARC is added to the list with 28 points from 1 log. The results were published in HF Happenings 907, available from the League web site.

Five logs were received for the SARL Newbie Party held on Saturday 4th July. With no RAE taking place yet, there are no newbies!

1st Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC – 99 points

2nd Gerhard Gericke, ZS6CRS – 56 points

3rd Joe Freedman, ZS6JOE – 40 points

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently no sunspot regions visible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 20 to 30 m bands will, especially around sunrise and sunset, provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a Diary of some upcoming events:

15th July – The SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

18th July – the Winter QRP Contest

19th July – the ZS2 Sprint

25th and 26th July – the Islands on the Air (IOTA) Contest

2nd August – the SARL HF Phone Contest

9th August – the YL Sprint

10th August – the Youth Sprint

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our key news item:

The fourth leg of the 80 m Club Sprint is on the air from 17:00 to 18:00 UTC on Wednesday 15th July with CW and phone activity. The aim is to work as many grid squares as possible during the hour long event.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be

heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.